

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 17, and ending on page 1, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

Digital communication schemes using chaotic signals as carriers can be broadly classified into two categories. In the first category, the chaotic signals carrying the information have to be synchronously regenerated at the receiver. The recovery of the information thus relies on a process that achieves synchronization of two chaotic signals or systems. There are numerous ways to achieve synchronization, and some specific methods have been disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,153 to Parker, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,363,153 to Abarbanel, et al U.S. Pat. No. 6,216,093 to Corron, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,212,239 to Hayes, U.S. Pat. No. 6,049,614 to Kim, U.S. Pat. No. 5,930,364 to Kim, U.S. Pat. No. 5,923,760 to Abarbanel, et al., and U.S. Pat. No. 5,291,555 to Cuomo, et al. However, methods requiring regeneration of synchronized chaotic signals at the receiver or synchronization of chaotic signals are applicable only in communication systems where the level of additive noise is low, which may not be applicable to a practical environment.